



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

No. 12-064

October 8, 2012

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SCHOOL DISTRICTS RECOGNIZED FOR ACCREDITATION

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Seven Kentucky public school districts were recognized today for achieving voluntary system accreditation through the AdvancED/Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation process.

Kentucky Commissioner of Education Terry Holliday; Kentucky Board of Education Chair David Karem; Randy McCallon, chair of the Kentucky AdvancED/SACS State Council; and Tom Jones, AdvancED Kentucky director presented plaques and banners to district superintendents and board members.

The seven school districts are:

- Boone County (initial accreditation)
- Elizabethtown Independent (initial accreditation)
- Graves County (initial accreditation)
- Marshall County (initial accreditation)
- McCracken County (continuing accreditation)
- Rowan County (continuing accreditation)
- Williamstown Independent (initial accreditation)

The seven join 23 other school districts and the Kentucky TECH system as public school entities holding accreditation status from AdvancED/SACs. The other school districts are:

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| • Bowling Green Independent | • Henderson County |
| • Boyd County | • Jefferson County |
| • Calloway County | • Jessamine County |
| • Campbell County | • Kenton County |
| • Carlisle County | • Laurel County |
| • Clark County | • Lee County |
| • Covington Independent | • Ludlow Independent |
| • Danville Independent | • Paris Independent |
| • Fairview Independent | • Pike County |
| • Franklin County | • Russell Independent |
| • Garrard County | • Walton-Verona Independent |
| • Grayson County | |

(more)

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Page 2 -- Accreditation

Accreditation is a voluntary method of quality assurance that schools and districts may undertake. Candidates for accreditation conduct a self-assessment, host a site visit from a team of experienced peer educators and complete actions identified by the team. Accreditation status covers a five-year period, and schools and districts are encouraged to apply for continuing accreditation.

To achieve accreditation, a school district must meet AdvancED's Standards for Quality School Systems:

Standard 1: Purpose and Direction

The system maintains and communicates at all levels of the organization a purpose and direction for continuous improvement that commit to high expectations for learning as well as shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning.

Standard 2: Governance and Leadership

The system operates under governance and leadership that promote and support student performance and school effectiveness.

Standard 3: Teaching and Assessing for Learning

The system's curriculum, instructional design, and assessment practices guide and ensure teacher effectiveness and student learning across all grades and courses.

Standard 4: Resources and Support Systems

The system has resources and provides services in all schools that support its purpose and direction to ensure success for all students.

Standard 5: Using Results for Continuous Improvement

The system implements a comprehensive assessment system that generates a range of data about student learning and system effectiveness and uses the results to guide continuous improvement.

The voluntary system accreditation process requires that school and system leaders:

- engage in a structured examination of practices, policies, conditions and culture in individual schools and the school system in relation to a set of research aligned quality standards
- implement an improvement planning process focused on improvement of student performance and organizational effectiveness, monitor progress and evaluate results
- host a three day on-site external examination process, led by peer professionals, half of whom are from outside Kentucky, who validate results and provide new insights and perspectives for continuous improvement

Two Kentucky school systems, Elizabethtown Independent and McCracken County, piloted the new AdvancED/SACS System Accreditation process using recently updated standards and revised performance-driven protocols.

More information about voluntary accreditation is available at <http://www.advanc-ed.org/>.

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